

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior version(s) and listing(s) of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) An input device comprising:

a designated value change unit ~~which changes~~ operable to change a designated value ~~when inputted by an operator by using a variation amount associated with the designated value, the designated value being changed using a predetermined first variation amount when it receives a first designated value change directive requesting the designated value to be changed is received from an operator; and~~

a variation amount change unit ~~which changes~~ operable to alter the variation amount ~~in said designated value change unit associated with the designated value from the predetermined first variation amount to a smaller second variation amount that is smaller than the first variation amount when it receives a second designated value change directive for changing the designated value in a direction different from the direction specified by that is opposite the first designated value change directive is received from the operator within a predetermined variation amount change period after receiving the first designated value change directive, and that maintains the variation amount in said designated value change unit as the first variation amount when it receives a directive for changing the designated value in a direction different from the direction specified by the first designated value change directive after the variation amount change period has lapsed, wherein the variation amount change unit is further operable to restore the variation amount associated with the designated value from the smaller second variation amount back to the predetermined first variation amount when a variation amount retention period lapses after a previous designated value change directive is received from the operator.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The input device ~~according to~~ of Claim 1, wherein ~~said the~~ designated value change unit comprises:

an increase unit ~~which increases~~ operable to increase the designated value by using the first variation amount associated with the designated value when ~~it receives~~ an increase directive ~~which requests the designated value to be increased~~ is received from the operator; and

a decrease unit ~~which decreases~~ operable to decrease the designated value by using the first variation amount associated with the designated value when ~~it receives~~ a decrease directive ~~requesting the designated value to be decreased; and~~ is received from the operator, wherein

~~said variation amount change unit changes the variation amount of the designated value for both said increase unit and said decrease unit to the second variation amount if one of said increase unit and said decrease unit receives a directive within a predetermined period after the other of said increase unit and said decrease unit receives the directive~~

the first designated value change directive is one of the increase directive and the decrease directive and the second designated value change directive is the other of the increase directive and the decrease directive.

3. (Currently Amended) The input device ~~according to~~ of Claim 2, further comprising:

an increase button ~~which allows~~ operable to allow the operator to input the increase directive; and

a decrease button ~~which allows~~ operable to allow the operator to input the decrease directive.

4. (Currently Amended) The input device ~~according to~~ of Claim 1, further comprising:

a display unit ~~which~~ operable to visually displays display information about changes in the designated value or changes in the variation amount associated with the designated value.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) The input device ~~according to~~ of Claim 1, further comprising:

an aggregate change management unit ~~which manages~~ operable to manage an aggregate change in the designated value when ~~said the~~ variation amount change-unit associated with changes the ~~variation amount of the designated value for said designated value change-unit~~ is altered from the predetermined first variation amount to the smaller second variation amount, wherein ~~said the~~ variation amount change unit restores is operable to restore the variation amount ~~of~~ associated with the designated value from the smaller second variation amount back to the predetermined first variation amount when the aggregate change in the designated value exceeds the predetermined first variation amount.

7. (Currently Amended) The input device ~~according to~~ of Claim 1, wherein~~[[:]]~~ if the ~~variation amount is changed to the second variation amount, said the~~ designated value change unit changes the designated value using the smaller second variation amount when a designated value change directive is received from the operator after the variation amount associated with the designated value has been altered from the predetermined first variation amount to the smaller second variation amount; and

~~if the designated value change directive is received again within the variation amount change period after changing the designated value in a direction different from that of the previous~~

~~designated value change directive, said variation amount change unit changes the variation amount for said designated value change unit to a third variation amount smaller than the second variation amount.~~

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) An input method, the method comprising the steps of:

storing a designated value, the designated value being associated with a variation amount;

inputting a designated value specified by an operator;

changing the designated value by using a predetermined first variation amount upon receiving when a first designated value change directive requesting the designated value to be changed is received;

determining whether a directive for changing said designated value in a direction different from that of the first designated value change directive is received; and

changing altering the variation amount for said associated with the designated value change unit from the predetermined first variation amount to a smaller second variation amount that is smaller than the first variation amount if it is determined that when a second designated value change directive for changing the designated value in a direction different from that of that is opposite the first designated value change directive is received within a predetermined variation

~~amount change period after receiving the first designated value change directive, and keeping the variation amount for the designated value change directive set at the first variation amount if it is determined that a directive for changing the designated value in a direction different from that of the first designated value change directive has been received after a predetermined period after receiving the designated value change directive; and~~

restoring the variation amount associated with the designated value from the smaller second variation amount back to the predetermined first variation amount when a variation amount retention period lapses after a previous designated value change directive is received.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium having a computer readable program code embodied therein for use with a computer, wherein the computer readable program code in said program product implementing functions effective to when executed on a computer causes the computer to:

store a designated value, the designated value being associated with a variation amount;

input a designated value specified by an operator;

change the designated value by using a predetermined first variation amount when receiving a first designated value change directive requesting the designated value to be changed is received;

change alter the variation amount associated with the designated value from the predetermined first variation amount to a smaller second variation amount that is smaller

~~than said first variation amount when receiving a second designated value change directive for changing the designated value in a direction different from the direction specified by that is opposite the first designated value change directive is received within a predetermined variation amount change period after receiving the first designated value change directive;~~
and

~~maintain the variation amount as the first variation amount when receiving a directive for changing the designated value in a direction different from the direction specified by the first designated value change directive after the variation amount change period has lapsed~~

restore the variation amount associated with the designated value from the smaller second variation amount back to the predetermined first variation amount when a variation amount retention period lapses after a previous designated value change directive is received.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (New) The input device of Claim 1, wherein the variation amount change unit is operable to alter the variation amount associated with the designated value from the smaller second variation amount to an even smaller third variation amount when a third designated value change directive that is opposite the second designated value change directive is received from the operator within the predetermined variation amount change period.

16. (New) The input device of Claim 1, wherein the variation amount change unit is operable

to alter the variation amount associated with the designated value from the predetermined first variation amount to the smaller second variation amount after the second designated value change directive that is opposite the first designated value change directive, a third designated value change directive that is opposite the second designated value change directive, and a fourth designated value change directive that is opposite the third designated value change directive are received from the operator in sequence at intervals shorter than the predetermined variation amount change period.

17. (New) The input device of Claim 1, wherein the designated value represents the position of a pointer or the brightness of a screen.

18. (New) The method of Claim 11, further comprising:

managing an aggregate change in the designated value when the variation amount associated with the designated value is altered from the predetermined first variation amount to the smaller second variation amount; and

restoring the variation amount associated with the designated value from the smaller second variation amount back to the predetermined first variation amount when the aggregate change in the designated value exceeds the predetermined first variation amount.

19. (New) The method of Claim 11, further comprising:

changing the designated value using the smaller second variation amount when a designated value change directive is received after the variation amount associated with the designated value has been altered from the predetermined first variation amount to the smaller second variation

amount.

20. (New) The method of Claim 11, further comprising:

altering the variation amount associated with the designated value from the smaller second variation amount to an even smaller third variation amount when a third designated value change directive that is opposite the second designated value change directive is received within the predetermined variation amount change period.

21. (New) The method of Claim 11, further comprising:

altering the variation amount associated with the designated value from the predetermined first variation amount to the smaller second variation amount after the second designated value change directive that is opposite the first designated value change directive, a third designated value change directive that is opposite the second designated value change directive, and a fourth designated value change directive that is opposite the third designated value change directive are received in sequence at intervals shorter than the predetermined variation amount change period.

22. (New) The method of Claim 11, wherein the designated value represents the position of a pointer or the brightness of a screen.

23. (New) The computer program product of Claim 13, wherein the computer readable program when executed on the computer further causes the computer to:

manage an aggregate change in the designated value when the variation amount associated with the designated value is altered from the predetermined first variation amount to the smaller

second variation amount; and

restore the variation amount associated with the designated value from the smaller second variation amount back to the predetermined first variation amount when the aggregate change in the designated value exceeds the predetermined first variation amount.

24. (New) The computer program product of Claim 13, wherein the computer readable program when executed on the computer further causes the computer to:

change the designated value using the smaller second variation amount when a designated value change directive is received after the variation amount associated with the designated value has been altered from the predetermined first variation amount to the smaller second variation amount.

25. (New) The computer program product of Claim 13, wherein the computer readable program when executed on the computer further causes the computer to:

alter the variation amount associated with the designated value from the smaller second variation amount to an even smaller third variation amount when a third designated value change directive that is opposite the second designated value change directive is received within the predetermined variation amount change period.

26. (New) The computer program product of Claim 13, wherein the computer readable program when executed on the computer further causes the computer to:

alter the variation amount associated with the designated value from the predetermined first variation amount to the smaller second variation amount after the second designated value change

directive that is opposite the first designated value change directive, a third designated value change directive that is opposite the second designated value change directive, and a fourth designated value change directive that is opposite the third designated value change directive are received in sequence at intervals shorter than the predetermined variation amount change period.

27. (New) The computer program product of Claim 13, wherein the designated value represents the position of a pointer or the brightness of a screen.